

~~TOP SECRET~~

EUROPE

1. **FRANCE:** Possible end to coal strike foreseen--According to US Ambassador Caffery, it is now possible to foresee "a general, if not total, return to work" in the French coal mines by 8 November. The [redacted] has meanwhile learned from a reliable source that Communist political and trade union leaders in the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) disagree as to the advisability of continuing the coal strike. Source states that trade union leaders are apparently convinced that the coal strike is losing rank and file support at an increasing rate and wish to announce the willingness of the Miners' Federation to reach a compromise solution with the Government. Source adds, however, that the top leaders of the French Communist Party have instructed the CGT to continue the strike to the bitter end, even at the risk of certain failure, in an effort to damage the European recovery program, disrupt the Government's plans, and weaken US-UK confidence in France as a base of operations against the USSR. 25X1

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that, as popular support for political strikes wanes, strained relations between political and trade union Communist leaders may endanger CGT solidarity. CIA considers, however, that despite the present strong stand taken by the top Communist leaders, the Communist Party will not extend its obstructionist efforts to the point of political suicide.)

FAR EAST

2. **INDOCHINA:** French begin military operations in Tonkin-- US Consul Gibson in Hanoi reports that the French have begun military operations in Tonkin. Gibson believes that the offensive will be a clean-up operation to assure the security of communications in the chief French-held cities in the Tonkin area rather than an ambitious extermination plan.

(CIA Comment: CIA agrees that the French will not undertake a large-scale operation similar to the ill-fated offensive of October 1947.)

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